

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Clark Memorial Clubhouse Men's Lounge, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Chairperson:	Allyn Backus
Vice Chairperson:	Cheryl Kessel
Commissioners:	Nick Wegman
	Cynthia Malla
	Gail Worden

Town Staff:	
Parks and Recreation Manager:	Joni Westcott
Parks and Recreation Coordinator:	Chell Smart

AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Backus.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEM: REPORTS

CURRENT EVENTS- A brief summary of current events. The Commission will not propose, discuss, deliberate or take action on any legal matter in the summary.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- There was no report to be made by the Chairperson.

STAFF REPORT –

Town is now a part of the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association. Commissioners now have access as well and can request a login through the Parks & Recreation Staff. Membership includes a discount to the annual conference.

Town Manager Recruitment process: First round of applications are being reviewed on September 12th. In mid-October, a select group of candidates will attend a meet and greet open to the public.

SPECIAL INTEREST REPORTS- A summary of information on topics of interest to the Commission. The Commission may discuss these items but will not take legal action on any matter listed.

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Community members are signing up for Jim Mast's free workshop, 'Welcoming Birds & Butterflies to Your Backyard'. Both classes have surpassed previous enrollment.

The Town will host the “Clarkdale Rocks” Gem and Mineral show in the Clark Memorial Clubhouse September 24-26. This event is free to the public and brings hundreds to our community.

Clark Memorial Library and NACOG will be offering a new “Tai Chi in Town Park” program on Thursday’s from 10:30 am - 11:30 am, beginning September 30th through November 18th. There is no charge for those who would like to attend. Classes will be held in Town Park. For more information, please contact the Clark Memorial Library at 634-5423.

I Love My Parks & Trails Program

Marsha Foutz has taken on the role of “trails” volunteer coordinator as part of the Parks & Recreation Department “I Love My Parks & Trails” program. She will be responsible for organizing approved trail clean up events with interested volunteers.

Volunteers assisted with weeding at Caballero Park this week following a complaint by a resident who visits the park regularly with his children. Future cleanup efforts will be led by Marsha Foutz. There are currently twelve Parks & Trails volunteers helping with these efforts.

Marsha will be focusing first on the Crystal Springs Trail which has sustained damage from recent flood events.

Commissioner Wegman noted that there is debris at Blow Out Wash trail related to the recent storms.

Selna Mongini Park - As part of the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant process, permission must be received from SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) to remove the Selna ballfield because it is part of the Clarkdale Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic integrity of the historic ballfield area will remain intact and a recognition monument at home plate has been proposed. This subject needs to be addressed with the newly formed Historical Preservation Commission. A presentation will take place on September 23rd during the Commissions regular monthly meeting.

Staff conducted two brainstorm sessions with various community partners to discuss educational goals of the Selna Mongini Park and how the goals/objectives can be met with specific elements in the interactive water feature planned for the park. This was a productive meeting with feedback being incorporated into the project.

In addition, a consultation meeting was had with Barnabas Kane and representatives from Creative Machines. Creative Machines is an engineering and creative design company that could assist with design and fabrication of the interactive elements. Creative Machines will present a proposal within the next few weeks.

At a recent Parks & Recreation manager meeting, Mickey Rogers spoke about new grant money that is available to assist with a match for the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant. A water feature design will be presented at the next Parks & Recreation meeting.

2021 Concert Season: 2021 Concerts in the Park has been a great success this year. Donations have been accepted rather than doing the 50/50 raffle. The Trotters Wake concert was rescheduled because their original date had to be cancelled due to a heavy monsoon storm. They will now wrap up our 2021 season on September 25th. Current donations total \$1,206 for the season, typically this amount is \$5,000.

John Ziegler notified staff that the band that we originally chose as Johnny Lingo Trio has disbanded due to some COVID 19 issues. Mr. Ziegler has formed a new band that is named “Dolce Vita”. They perform on September 18.

Total donations and sponsors will add up to a successful concert season. Some community members have noted that they miss the 50/50 raffle.

Some feedback regarding the new time of the concerts has both supported and opposed the new time.

Verde River @ Clarkdale Due to several flooding events, the Verde River at Clarkdale river access points have had to be closed on occasion for public safety concerns and repairs that needed to take place.

Verde River Institute has been conducting regular water quality testing throughout the flooding season. Some test results have resulted in signage being put up at the Verde River Access Points (RAP) warning users of the risks of swimming in or drinking potentially contaminated water. These contamination levels are expected to rapidly drop as water levels return to normal. Contamination rates are being monitored by ADEQ.



Outfitters have been regularly monitoring the river and banks for safety concerns and they recently organized a clean-up on and around the river to remove debris and increase the ability to safely navigate the area. The Town is grateful to the outfitters for completing this critical work at the river. RAP shutdowns have been particularly hard on these businesses who had to cancel many out-of-town customers due to unsafe conditions costing them to lose over \$32,000 in business.

New Verde River @ Clarkdale River Access Point brochures have arrived. They will be placed at the Camp Verde and Cottonwood Visitor Centers and the Lower TAPCO RAP kiosk. Ambassadors will also have a supply to hand out to visitors.

River hazard signage has been purchased. Temporary signs are currently on site.

Verde River Institute reported a truck bed which has landed in the river. The Town is taking steps to get the vehicle removed.

Commissioner Wegman inquired about and was instructed that E. coli is the contaminant that is currently being monitored in the Verde River by Verde River Institute.

Freeport McMorran is currently speaking with the Town regarding the dam on the river and future removal plans. Changes at the river have resulted in some damage to outfitter boats.

Two new River Ambassadors have been hired, Chris Jensen & Patrick Fischer.

AGENDA ITEM: MINUTES – Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 14, 2021.

Action: Approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held on July 14, 2021.

Motion: Commissioner Worden

Second: Vice Chair Kessel

Vote:

Voting Member	Aye/Nay
Chairperson Allyn Backus	Aye
Vice Chairperson Cheryl Kessel	Aye
Commissioner Cynthia Malla	Aye
Commissioner Nick Wegman	Aye
Commissioner Gail Worden	Aye

AGENDA ITEM: 2021 HALLOWEEN IN CLARKDALE – Discussion and possible action regarding the Clarkdale 2021 Halloween event.

Although conditions may change in the coming months, Staff is prepared to move forward with planning the event.

The following traditional elements of Halloween are being planned:

- Best Decorated Halloween House Contest (upper Clarkdale residents due to resource limitations)
- Safe Trick or Treating
- Road Closures
- Costume Contest
- Gazebo Decorating

Volunteers will be needed to support these events.

After a discussion, Commissioners agreed that the Town should move forward with planning as proposed for the following reasons:

- Participation is optional
- Road closures help to protect children during trick or treating
- Many children will trick or treat regardless of the road closure
- The 2018 survey of residents was overwhelmingly supportive of Halloween festivities
- This event is not advertised in the newspaper to keep the emphasis on serving local children and families

It was noted that the Costume Contest may be considered for cancellation if changes are needed.

Action: Motion to recommend Staff carries on with planning the Safe Trick or Treat event as proposed by Staff.

Motion: Chairperson Backus

Second: Commissioner Malla

Vote:

Voting Member	Aye/Nay
Chairperson Allyn Backus	Aye
Vice Chairperson Cheryl Kessel	Aye
Commissioner Cynthia Malla	Aye
Commissioner Nick Wegman	Aye
Commissioner Gail Worden	Aye

AGENDA ITEM: 2022 PARKS & RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN – Work session to develop the 2022 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan.

Values are now being drafted for the Parks & Recreation 2022 Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan Mission Statement was updated to the following:

Enhance the quality of life in Clarkdale by providing engaging community public spaces and recreational opportunities that promote and sustain our unique environment, resources, and history.

Proposed Values that were discussed include:

Stewardship – Preserve open space including the Verde River, parks and trails to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Inclusion/ Service – Serve visitors and the whole population of Clarkdale (including the ADA community, all age groups, races, and genders) with active and passive recreation facilities and resources.

Sustainability – Work towards sustainability through regional cooperation on open space issues.

Connections – Connect people, trails, outdoor recreation spaces. Collaborate with partners to share resources and further shared goals. Develop partnerships to further goals related to programing, events, volunteers and community partners.

Service – Support and encourage volunteerism from citizens serving the Clarkdale community.

Safety – Design and promote a safe and healthy environment for all who work and paly in our parks, facilities, and programs.

Education – Identify, promote, and develop educational opportunities especially those focused on the Verde River.

Equity – Parks that are distributed evenly with access for all. Provide parks, facilities, and program services in a just, fair and equitable manner, so that residents from all neighborhoods and of diverse backgrounds can access Clarkdale’s recreation resources in a non-discriminatory manner.

Fun (Quality of life) – Encourage play, quality of life, fun and entertainment in Clarkdale. Build our community on a foundation of fun.

Commissioners noted that some proposed values and definitions may be reworded or combined for clarity and effect.

Staff will review the proposed values and consider changes then present this agenda item in the future.

Commissioner Wegman moved to reopen agenda item: Special Interest Reports on the topic of Selna Mongini Park. Commissioners agreed to revisit the proposed agenda item.

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Commissioner Wegman asked about proposed plans to memorialize the Selna Ballfield. Manager Westcott noted that the infield area will remain a grassy area and a plaque would commemorate the home plate area. The letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) lists the proposed changes. Staff does not anticipate any issues moving forward. The Town's Historical Commission will consider changes at this site before SHPO is approached. APS will remove and donate the ballfield lights to the Clarkdale Jerome School.

AGENDA ITEM: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS- Listing of items to appear on future agendas.

Halloween

Christmas

Special Events and Upcoming Rentals

AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT

With no objection, meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

APPROVED:

Chairperson, Allyn Backus

SUBMITTED BY:

Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Chell Smart